

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 TRSE-00 OES-03

AGR-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 IGA-01

L-02 EB-07 COME-00 HEW-02 /072 W

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R 191030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5847

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETING OF DONOR REPRESENTATIVES

REF: DACCA 761

1. DONOR REPS, INCLUDING UNDP (BUT EXCLUDING BDG REPS),
HELD SECOND MEETING FEBRUARY 17 UNDER IBRD RES REP CHAIRMANSHIP
TO DISCUSS (A) POSSIBLE WAYS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION; (B) EXCHANGE
INFO ON CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE BILATERAL PROGRAMS; AND (C)
FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS. ALL ADDRESSEE POST GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED
EXCEPT ITALY. IRANIAN REP NOTED HE AUTHORIZED ONLY TO ATTEND MEET-
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INGS OF DONOR REPS.

2. DONOR DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES. IN RESPONSE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST, DANISH AND SWEDISH REPS STATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSED STUDY. (PARA 5, REFTEL). IT CLEAR THAT THIS PROPOSED STUDY HAS WIDESPREAD DONOR SUPPORT.

3. COORDINATION OF DONOR COMMODITY ASSISTANCE.

(A) UNDP STUDY. UNDP RES REP REPORTED THAT SHORT-TERM CONSULTANT (KURTZ, US) WAS TO PREPARE QTE COMPOSITE PICTURE OF ASSISTANCE UNQTE TO BANGLADESH, UNDER FIVE CATEGORIES:

- (I) CAPITAL ASSISTANCE (I.E. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT)
- (II) COMMODITY AID
- (III) PROJECT AID
- (IV) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
- (V) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

THIS INFORMATION TO BE CATALOGUED AND AVAILABLE TO ALL DONORS.

(B) IBRD RES REP SUGGESTED FOLLOWING COORDINATION PROCEDURE:

- (I) PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULATES LIST OF IMPORT REQUIREMENTS TO ALL DONORS;
- (II) IBRD APPRAISES ITEMS LISTED (I.E. ARE THEY HIGHEST PRIORITY?)
- (III) APPRAISED LIST IS CIRCULATED TO DONOR GOVERNMENT CAPITALS;
- (IV) DONOR GOVERNMENT REACTIONS SHARED COLLECTIVELY WITH BDG. HOWEVER, HE NOTED DRAWBACK THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING.

(C) DISCUSSION. SCANDINAVIANS GENERALLY URGED GREATER PLANNING COMMISSION AND LESS DONOR INVOLVEMENT AT ALL STAGES OF SETTING IMPORT PRIORITIES, BY BUILDING UP BDG STAFF AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY AS NEEDED. UK DEL, MINFUL THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD FIRST PROPOSED LOCAL DONOR COORDINATION, NOTED THAT PLANNING COMMISSION MERELY BROKERED SEPARATE BDG AGENCY IMPORT DEMANDS WITHOUT, SO FAR AS UK REP AWARE, SETTING OVERALL PRIORITIES. IBRD RES REP TENTATIVELY OFFERED

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IDEA OF JOINT COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN, WITH ITEMS TO BE IMPORTED DETERMINED BY BDG AND BANK, AND DONORS INVITED TO FINANCE PORTIONS OF TOTAL REQUIRED.

(D) CONCLUSION. CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP, FINDING THERE THREE LEVELS OF QTE COORDINATION UNQTE:

- (I) FREE FLOWS OF INFORMATION ON DONOR ACTIVITIES;
- (II) ENCOURAGE BDG LIST HIGHEST PRIORITIES;

(III) SOME FURTHER COLLECTIVE ACTION BY DONORS.

DONOR REPS AGREED CONTINUE DISCUSSION MARCH 10.

4. CURRENT AND PROPOSED BILATERAL PROGRAMS.

(A) ASSISTANCE STATEMENTS. IBRD, AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, UK, AND US CIRCULATED SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF CURRENT AID PROGRAMS (COPIES BEING POUCHED). OTHER REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD ALSO DO SO.

(B) USAID PROGRAM. IN FIRST OF SUCH STATEMENTS PROPOSED FOR ALL DONOR REPS OVER NEXT FEW MEETINGS OF GROUP, MISSION DIRECTOR TONER BRIEFLY DESCRIBED CURRENT AID PROGRAM AND MAJOR MISSION PROPOSALS FOR FY 76, EMPHASIZING FACT THAT NO RPT NO DECISION YET TAKEN ON LATTER PROPOSALS.

5. FURTHER DISCUSSION TOPICS. DONOR REPS AGREED INFORMALLY DISCUSS FOLLOWING TOPICS, AS RESULT DISCUSSION FOLLOWING TONER PRESENTATION:

(A) USE OF FOOD AID FOR DEVELOPMENT (MARCH 31);

(B) INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND INSTITUTION BUILDING (WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS); AND

(C) CHITTAGONG PORT PROBLEMS, ON BASIS JOINT ASSESSMENT BY UNDP, BDG AND SELECTED DONOR REPS (SEE PARA 4 REFTTEL).

6. SMALLPOX. UNDP RES REP ALERTED DONORS TO SMALLPOX FLARE-UP AND WHO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS (REPORTED DACCA 766 AND 830). SWEDISH REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP; CANADIAN REP REPORTED BDG APPROACH TO HIS GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE.

7. IBRD MISSIONS IN BANGLADESH. IBRD RES REP STATED OOAT:

(A) MISSION ASSESSING CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD RETURN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 18 TO PREPARE OVER NEXT THREE WEEKS ITS REPORT ON BANGLADESH FOR FORTHCOMING BANGLADESH AID GROUP MEETING;

(B) TEAM NOW RPT NOW IN DACCA TO PREPARE PAPER/RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEXT COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN; AND

(C) TEAM ALSO IN DACCA NOW RPT NOW INTENSIVELY STUDYING JUTE AND COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRIES (AS PART OF OVERALL IBRD COMMODITY IMPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM).

8. COMMENT: DACCA-BASED DONOR COORDINATING GROUP IS RAPIDLY GAINING CONFIDENCE AND EXPANDING LIST OF TOPICS TO BE TACKLED. WHILE IT STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE EFFECT OF LOCAL COORDINATION EFFORT, IT HAS TO DATE RECEIVED BDG PLANNING COMMISSION ENCOURAGEMENT AND IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THIS NEW COORDINATING MECHANISM IS MEETING FELT NEED OF DONOR REPS FOR OPEN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS. IBRD RES REP HAS, HOWEVER, BEGUN SETTING LIMITS

TO RANGE OF GROUP'S RESPONSIBILITIES. AT ONE POINT IN DISCUSSIONS
WHERE QUESTIONS OF DONOR FUNDING OF EQUIPMENT FOR CHITTAGONG AROSE,
IBRD RES REP STEERED DISCUSSION AWAY FROM ANY PLEDGING IMPLICATIONS,
STATING THAT WAS THE PROPER BUSINESS OF THE BANGLADESH AID GROUP
MEETING AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR LOCAL DONOR REPS GROUP.
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